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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9546

INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2769

RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1129

RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1088

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2008

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2224

RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 2845

RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY 2803

RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 0952

RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 001373

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR P, EAP, L, OES, G/AIAG, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, EAP/RSAP
NSC FOR E. PHU

SECDEF FOR USDP/ISA/AP - P. IBSEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/2018

TAGS: PREL MARR TBIO AMED ID

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE WILLING BUT NOT EAGER TO HOST NAMRU-2

REF: JAKARTA 1247 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Cameron Hume for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Singaporean Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Balaji Sadasivan told Ambassador Hume July 14 that Singapore would be willing to host NAMRU-2 if it is ultimately forced to leave Indonesia. At a dinner hosted by the Singaporean Ambassador, Sadasivan said that Singapore is worried about the consequences on its public health if Indonesia were to force NAMRU-2 to withdraw. Noting that the public health situation of its neighbors - and Indonesia in particular - has huge impact on Singapore's public health, Sadasivan said that he was personally reassured knowing that NAMRU-2 was in Indonesia studying tropical infectious diseases.

¶2. (C) Sadasivan stressed his strong preference that NAMRU-2 be allowed to remain in Indonesia. But, in the worst-case scenario, he said that Singapore would be willing to host NAMRU-2 or any of its functions that made sense to relocate to Singapore. He suggested that NAMRU-2 could be located at the Regional Emerging Diseases Intervention (REDI) Centre and said that scientists from ASEAN countries could work in a relocated NAMRU-2. Sadasivan said that his government already has agreements with the U.S. Navy and Department of State which could provide the framework for NAMRU's presence.

HUME